

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for managing customer relationships between customers, a dealer, and a lender, wherein the dealer offers products for sale to the customers and the lender is engaged in a business of providing financing, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a database of customer ~~information and information~~, customer spending ~~data data~~, and customer financial data for each customer stored within the database, wherein the financial data includes at least one of income, loan and credit payment history, and loan and credit overpayments for each customer;

predicting future customer behavior for each customer stored in the database based on the customer ~~information and information~~, customer spending ~~data~~; and ~~data~~, and customer financial data;

calculating for each customer at least one of an expected income from the customer for the dealer and a timing of purchase of a product from the dealer based on the predicted future customer behavior;

generating a list of targeted customers based on the calculated expected income and the calculated timing of purchase, wherein a targeted customer is a customer designated for receiving from the dealer a personalized offer for sale of a product;

constructing customer campaigns with personalized offers for the targeted customers;
and

providing financing by the lender for the dealer as part of the offer to the targeted customers, wherein the lender provides financing to the targeted customers that purchase a product from the dealer as a result of the customer campaigns.

2. (original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of predicting future customer behavior further comprises the step of identifying hit and run customers using a hit and run model.

3. (original) A method according to Claim 2 further comprising the step of rank ordering customer accounts that have had only one occurrence of spending activity, based upon a probability of there ever being future spending activity.

4. (original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of predicting future customer behavior further comprises the step of identifying dormant customers using a dormancy model.

5. (original) A method according to Claim 4 further comprising the step of rank ordering customer accounts without spending activity over a predetermined unit of time.

6. (original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of predicting future customer behavior further comprises the steps of clustering groups of customers using key performance indicators.

7. (original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of predicting future customer behavior further comprises the step of predicting future spending of customers in the customer information database within a specified time period.

8. (original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of constructing customer campaigns further comprises the step of determining a customer targeting list based on at least one of likelihood of response, an estimated overall response rate, and profitability margin.

9. (original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of constructing customer campaigns further comprises the step of identifying product purchase patterns and indicating trends using key variables.

10. (original) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of constructing customer campaigns further comprises the step of exposing the customer to new spending opportunities by segmenting previous spending patterns.

11. (currently amended) A system ~~configured~~ for managing customer relationships between customers, a dealer, and a lender, wherein the dealer offers products for sale to the customers and the lender is engaged in a business of providing financing, said system comprising:

at least one computer;

a server including a database of customer ~~information and~~ information, customer spending ~~data~~ data, and customer financial data for each customer stored within the database, wherein the financial data includes at least one of income, loan and credit payment history, and loan and credit overpayments for each customer, said server configured to:

predict future customer behavior for each customer stored in the database based on the customer ~~information and~~ information, customer spending ~~data~~ data, and customer financial data,

calculate for each customer at least one of an expected income from the customer for the dealer and a timing of purchase of a product from the dealer based on the predicted future customer behavior,

generate a list of targeted customers based on the calculated expected income and the calculated timing of purchase, wherein a targeted customer is a customer designated for receiving from the dealer a personalized offer for sale of a product,

construct customer campaigns with personalized offers for the targeted customers~~[; and]]~~, and

determine that financing is to be provided by the lender for the dealer as part of the offer to the targeted customers, wherein the lender provides financing to the targeted customers that purchase a product from the dealer as a result of the customer campaigns; and

a network connecting said server to said computer.

12. (original) A system according to Claim 11 wherein said server is configured to identify hit and run customers with a hit and run model.

13. (original) A system according to Claim 12 wherein said server is configured to rank order customer accounts that have had only one occurrence of spending activity, based upon a probability of there ever being future spending activity.

14. (original) A system according to Claim 11 wherein said server is configured to identify dormant customers with a dormancy model.

15. (original) A system according to Claim 14 wherein said server is configured to rank order customer accounts without spending activity over a predetermined unit of time.

16. (original) A system according to Claim 11 wherein said server configured to cluster groups of customers using key performance indicators.

17. (original) A system according to Claim 11 wherein said server configured to predict future spending of customers within a specified time period.

18. (original) A system according to Claim 11 wherein said server configured to determine a customer targeting list based on at least one of likelihood of response, an estimated overall response rate and profitability margin.

19. (original) A system according to Claim 11 wherein said server configured to identify product purchase patterns and indicate trends using key variables.

20. (original) A system according to Claim 11 wherein said server configured to present to customers new spending opportunities by segmenting previous spending patterns.

21. (original) A system according to Claim 11 wherein said server configured to gather customer information through at least one of point of sale, home shopping, E-commerce, credit card information, bank card information, world wide web and digital television.

22. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium for managing customer relationships between customers, a dealer, and a lender, wherein the dealer offers products for sale to the customers and the lender is engaged in a business of providing financing, the computer readable medium comprising:

at least one record of customer ~~information and~~ information, customer spending data data, and customer financial data for each customer, wherein the financial data includes at least one of income, loan and credit payment history, and loan and credit overpayments for each customer;

a record of key performance indicators;

a plurality of rules for matching customer ~~information and information~~, customer spending ~~data data~~, and customer financial data to at least one of said key performance indicators; and indicators;

a record of predictions of future customer behavior for each customer according to said plurality of ~~rules~~ rules;

a plurality of rules for calculating for each customer of at least one of an expected income from the customer for the dealer and a timing of purchase of a product from the dealer based on the predictions of future customer behavior;

a list of targeted customers based on the calculated income and the calculated timing of purchase, wherein a targeted customer is a customer designated for receiving from the dealer a personalized offer for sale of a product;

a plurality of rules for constructing a customer campaign with personalized offers for the targeted customers; and

a plurality of rules for determining that financing is to be provided by the lender for the dealer as part of the offer to the targeted customers, wherein the lender provides financing to the targeted customers that purchase a product from the dealer as a result of the customer campaigns.

23. (original) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 22 further comprising a record of clustered groups of customers based upon key performance indicators.

24. (original) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 22 further comprising a record of rank ordered customer accounts without spending activity over a predetermined unit of time.

25. (original) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 22 further comprising a record of rank ordered customer accounts that have had only one occurrence of spending activity, based upon a probability of there ever being future spending activity.

26. (original) A computer-readable medium according to Claim 22 further comprising a record of customer targets based on at least one of likelihood of response, an estimated overall response rate, and profitability margin.

27. (currently amended) A computer ~~programmed to~~ for managing a customer relationship between customers, a dealer, and a lender, wherein the dealer offers products for sale to the customers and the lender is engaged in a business of providing financing, wherein the computer is programmed to:

prompt a user to select a database of available customer ~~information and~~ information, customer spending ~~data~~ data, and customer financial data for each customer for analysis analysis, wherein the financial data includes at least one of income, loan and credit payment history, and loan and credit overpayments for each customer;

predict future customer behavior based upon customer ~~information and~~ information, customer spending ~~data; and~~ data, and customer financial data;

calculate for each customer at least one of an expected income from the customer for the dealer and a timing of purchase of a product from the dealer based on the predicted future customer behavior;

generate a list of targeted customers based on the calculated expected income and the calculated timing of purchase, wherein the targeted customer is a customer designated for receiving from the dealer a personalized offer for sale of a product;

prompt a user with a strategy to manage the customer relationship with personalized offers for customers based upon predicted future behavior; and

determine that financing is to be provided by the lender for the dealer as part of the offer to the targeted customers, wherein the lender provides financing to the targeted customers that purchase a product from the dealer as a result of the strategy to manage the customer relationship.

28. (original) A computer according to Claim 27 wherein to prompt a user to select a database, said computer displays a computer generated screen listing of key performance indicators.

29. (original) A computer according to Claim 28 wherein to predict future customer behavior, said computer programmed to cluster groups of customers according to key performance indicators.

30. (original) A computer according to Claim 27 wherein to prompt a user with a strategy to manage the customer relationship, said computer displays a computer generated screen of rank ordered customer accounts according to spending activity.

31. (currently amended) A method for managing a customer relationship between customers, a dealer, and a lender, wherein the dealer offers products for sale to the customers and the lender is engaged in a business of providing financing, said method comprising the steps of:

selecting, from an electronic interface, a record of customer ~~information and~~ information, customer spending ~~data~~ data, and customer financial data for each customer, wherein the financial data includes at least one of income, loan and credit payment history, and loan and credit overpayments for each customer;

selecting, from the electronic interface, key performance indicators for an analysis of the customer ~~information and~~ information, customer spending ~~data~~; and data, and customer financial data;

requesting, from the electronic interface, a prediction of future customer behavior for each customer;

requesting, from the electronic interface, a calculation for each customer of at least one of an expected income from the customer for the dealer and a timing of purchase of a product from the dealer based on the predicted future customer behavior;

request, from the electronic interface, a list of targeted customers based on the calculated income and the calculated timing of purchase, wherein the targeted customer is a customer designated for receiving from the dealer a personalized offer for sale of a product;

request, from the electronic interface, a construction of customer campaigns with personalized offers for the targeted customers; and

request, from the electronic interface, a determination of financing that is to be provided by the lender for the dealer as part of the offer to the targeted customers, wherein the lender provides financing to the targeted customers that purchase a product from the dealer as a result of the customer campaigns.

32. (original) A method according to Claim 31 wherein the analysis of customer information comprises the step of requesting, from the electronic interface, a group of customers clustered against the selected key performance indicators.

33. (original) A method according to Claim 32 wherein said step of requesting a prediction of future customer behavior comprises the step of requesting a rank ordering of customer accounts according to spending activity.

34. (original) A method according to Claim 31 wherein said step of requesting a prediction of future customer behavior further comprises the step of requesting a prediction of an optimal targeting list based upon at least one of a likelihood of response, an estimated overall response rate, and profitability margin.

35. (currently amended) Apparatus for managing customer relationships between customers, a dealer, and a lender, wherein the dealer offers products for sale to the customers and the lender is engaged in the business of providing financing, said apparatus comprising:

means for storing customer ~~information and information~~, customer spending data data, and customer financial data for each customer, wherein the financial data includes at least one of income, loan and credit payment history, and loan and credit overpayments for each customer;

means for predicting future customer behavior according to the customer ~~information and information~~, customer spending data, and data, and customer financial data;

means for calculating for each customer at least one of an expected income from the customer for the dealer and a timing of purchase of a product from the dealer based on the predicted future customer behavior;

means for generating a list of targeted customers based on the calculated income and the calculated timing of purchase, wherein a targeted customer is a customer designated for receiving from the dealer a personalized offer for sale of a product;

means for constructing customer campaigns to manage the customer relationship; and

means for determining that financing is to be provided by the lender for the dealer as part of the offer to the targeted customer, wherein the lender provides financing to the targeted customers that purchase a product from the dealer as a result of the customer campaigns.

36. (original) Apparatus according to Claim 35 wherein said means for predicting future customer behavior comprises means for examining key performance indicators.

37. (original) Apparatus according to Claim 35 wherein said means for predicting future customer behavior comprises means for clustering groups of customers using the key performance indicators.

38. (original) Apparatus according to Claim 35 wherein said means for predicting future customer behavior comprises means for identifying hit and run customers.

39. (original) Apparatus according to Claim 35 wherein said means for predicting future customer behavior comprises means for identifying dormant customers.

40. (original) Apparatus according to Claim 35 wherein said means for predicting future customer behavior comprises means for rank ordering customer accounts according to spending activity.

41. (original) Apparatus according to Claim 35 wherein said means for constructing customer campaigns comprises means for determining a customer targeting list based on at least one of likelihood of response, an estimated overall response rate, and profitability margin.

42. (original) Apparatus according to Claim 35 wherein said means for constructing customer campaigns comprises means for segmenting previous spending patterns to present new spending opportunities to customers.

43. (currently amended) A database for managing customer relationships between customers, a dealer, and a lender, wherein the dealer offers products for sale to the customers and the lender is engaged in the business of providing financing, said database comprising:

data corresponding to customer ~~information and~~ information, customer spending data data, and customer financial data for each customer, wherein the financial data includes at least one of income, loan and credit payment history, and loan and credit overpayments for each customer;

data corresponding to key performance indicators;

data corresponding to rules for matching customer ~~information and~~ information, customer spending data data, and customer financial data to at least one of the key performance ~~indicators; and~~ indicators;

data corresponding to predictions of future customer behavior based on the rules;

data corresponding to rules for calculating for each customer at least one of an expected income from the customer for the dealer and a timing of purchase of a product from the dealer based on the predicted future customer behavior;

data corresponding to rules for generating a list of targeted customers based on the calculated income and the calculated timing of purchase, wherein a targeted customer is a customer designated for receiving from the dealer a personalized offer for sale of a product;

data corresponding to rules for constructing customer campaigns to manage the customer relationship; and

data corresponding to rules for determining that financing is to be provided by the lender for the dealer as part of the offer to the targeted customer, wherein the lender provides financing to the targeted customers that purchase a product from the dealer as a result of the customer campaigns.

44. (original) A database according to Claim 43 further comprising data corresponding to clustered groups of customers based upon key performance indicators.

45. (original) A database according to Claim 43 further comprising data corresponding to rank ordered customer accounts without spending activity over a predetermined unit of time.

46. (original) A database according to Claim 43 further comprising data corresponding to rank ordered customer accounts that have had only one occurrence of spending activity, based upon a probability of there ever being future spending activity.

47. (original) A database according to Claim 43 further comprising data corresponding to customer targets based on at least one of likelihood of response, an estimated overall response rate, and profitability margin.

48. (currently amended) A computer program embodied on a computer readable medium for managing customer relationships ~~to enhance customer loyalty between~~ customers, a dealer, and a lender, using a network based system including a server system coupled to a centralized database and at least one client system, wherein the dealer offers products for sale to the customers and the lender is engaged in a business of providing financing, said computer program comprising:

a code segment that receives customer data for each customer into a centralized customer ~~database~~ database, wherein the customer data includes at least one of income, loan and credit payment history, and loan and credit overpayments for each customer;

a code segment that accesses the centralized customer database;

a code segment that predicts future customer behavior based on information available from the customer database;

~~a code segment that identifies a select list of customers based on pre-defined parameters stored in the centralized database; and~~

a code segment that calculates for each customer at least one of an expected income from the customer for the dealer and a timing of purchase of a product from the dealer based on the predicted future customer behavior;

a code segment that generates a list of targeted customers based on the calculated income and the calculated timing of purchase, wherein a targeted customer is a customer designated for receiving from the dealer a personalized offer for sale of a product;

a code segment that develops customer campaigns with personalized offers for the ~~select list of customers~~ the targeted customers;

a code segment that determines whether financing is to be provided by the lender for the dealer as part of the offer to the targeted customer, wherein the lender provides financing to the targeted customers that purchase a product from the dealer as a result of the customer campaigns.

49. (original) The computer program as recited in Claim 48 further comprising a code segment that accesses customer information and customer spending data stored in the centralized database.

50. (original) The computer program as recited in Claim 49 further comprising a code segment that cross references the customer information and customer spending data to unique identifiers for easy retrieval, update and storage.

51. (original) The computer program as recited in Claim 48 wherein said code segment that identifies a select list of customers and further comprising a code segment that:

rank orders customer accounts that have had only one occurrence of spending activity, based upon a probability of there ever being future spending activity; and

rank orders customer accounts without spending activity over a predetermined unit of time.

52. (original) The computer program as recited in Claim 48 further comprising a code segment that identifies customers using at least one of a dormancy model and a hit and run model.

53. (original) The computer program as recited in Claim 48 further comprising a code segment that:

clusters groups of customers using key performance indicators; and

predicts future spending of customers within a specified time period.

54. (original) The computer program as recited in Claim 48 further comprising a code segment that identifies a customer targeting list based on at least one of likelihood of response, an estimated overall response rate, product purchase patterns, future indicating trends, and profitability margin.

55. (original) The computer program as recited in Claim 48 further comprising a code segment that develops customer campaigns by exposing the customer to new spending opportunities by segmenting previous spending patterns.

56. (original) The computer program as recited in Claim 48 wherein the network is a wide area network operable using a protocol including at least one of TCP/IP and IPX.

57. (original) The computer program as recited in Claim 48 wherein the data is received from the user via a graphical user interface.

58. (original) The computer program as recited in Claim 48 further comprising a code segment that develops customer campaigns based on pre-stored assumptions in the database.

59. (original) The computer program as recited in Claim 48 wherein the client system and the server system are connected via a network and wherein the network is one of a wide area network, a local area network, an intranet and the Internet.

60. (original) The computer program as recited in Claim 48, and further comprising a code segment that monitors the security of the system by restricting access to unauthorized individuals.

61. (currently amended) A database for managing customer relationships between customers, a dealer, and a lender, wherein the dealer offers products for sale to the customers and the lender is engaged in the business of providing financing, said database comprising:

data corresponding to customer information and information, customer spending, and customer finances, wherein the data corresponding to customer finances includes at least one of income, loan and credit payment history, and loan and credit overpayments;

data corresponding to key performance ~~indicators;~~ and indicators;

at least one rule to be applied to the customer ~~information and~~ information, customer spending ~~data~~ data, and customer finance data and the key performance indicator data to predict future customer ~~behavior~~ behavior;

at least one rule for calculating for each customer at least one of an expected income from the customer for the dealer and a timing of purchase of a product from the dealer based on the predicted future customer behavior;

at least one rule for generating a list of targeted customers based on the calculated income and the calculated timing of purchase, wherein a targeted customer is a customer designated for receiving from the dealer a personalized offer for sale of a product;

at least one rule for constructing customer campaigns to manage the customer relationship; and

at least one rule for determining that financing is to be provided by the lender for the dealer as part of the offer to the targeted customer, wherein the lender provides financing to the targeted customers that purchase a product from the dealer as a result of the customer campaigns.

62. (original) A database according to Claim 61 further comprising:

data corresponding to clustered groups of customers; and

at least one rule to be applied to the cluster customer group data and the key performance indicators to predict future customer behavior.

63. (original) A database according to Claim 61 further comprising at least one rule to be applied to the customer information and customer spending data and the key performance indicators to rank order customer accounts without spending activity over a predetermined unit of time.

~~65.~~ 64. (currently amended) A database according to Claim 61 further comprising at least one rule based upon at least one of a likelihood of response, an estimated overall

response rate and a profitability margin, said rule to be applied to the customer information and customer spending data and the key performance indicators to target customers.